

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00557 191559Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 OES-07 DLOS-09 COME-00 EB-08
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-----081945 191603Z /47

P 181901Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4249
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 557

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EFIS NS GY
SUBJ: SURINAM PREPARES REACTION TO GUYANA'S PROTEST

1. ALTHOUGH SURINAM AND GUYANA MAY YET FIND SOME WAY OF
AVOIDING A COMPLETE COLLAPSE IN THEIR RELATIONS, SIGNS
CONTINUE TO MOUNT THAT AT LEAST FROM THIS SIDE OF THE
CORANTIJN THOSE TIES ARE EXTREMELY FRAGILE. IN ADDITION TO
STEADY REPORTS OF GUYANESE BEING ARRESTED AND EXPELLED FOR
ILLEGALLY STAYING IN SURINAM, WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO SEE
STORIES IN THE LOCAL PRESS ABOUT GOS REFUSAL TO PERMIT ONE
OF THE LARGER AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES IN SURINAM (THE
MARIENBURG SUGAR ESTATE) TO IMPORT GUYANESE LABOR. IN
ADDITION, A SURINAMESE CULTURAL TROOP AND A YOUTH SOCCER
TEAM HAVE ALREADY PUT OFF SCHEDULED TRIPS TO GUYANA,
OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES
IN GEORGETOWN, BUT PROBABLY ALSO IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT
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ARE VIEWED AS DETERIORATING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES.

2. OVER THE WEEKEND, LOCAL RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST A
REPORT THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF BRAZIL, VENEZUELA AND THE
U.S., SO-CALLED "FRIENDLY POWERS," WOULD SOON BE CALLED
IN BY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRON TO BE BRIEFED ON THE SITUATION

REGARDING GUYANA. MEANWHILE, ANOTHER RADIO REPORT
ANNOUNCED THAT A CABINET MEETING WOULD BE HELD APRIL 18 TO
DISCUSS SURINAM'S REPLY TO GUYANA'S PROTEST NOTE DELIVERED
BY AMBASSADOR SAUL APRIL 12. PARTS OF THAT NOTE HAVE
APPARENTLY LEAKED OUT TO THE PRESS, WHICH HAS
REPORTED THAT GUYANA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE "ARMED
VIOLENCE" OF SURINAM AUTHORITIES ON THE CORANTIJN RIVER,
STATING IT WOULD NOT TOLERATE THIS, AND INDICATING THAT
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD BE BROKEN IF NECESSARY AND
FURTHER THAT SURINAM WOULD HAVE TO "BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES"
IF ANY MORE GUYANESE FISHERMEN WERE ARRESTED ON THE
CORANTIJN.
ZURHELLEN

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